

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

Wyoming Wind Plant Project  
Power Purchase Agreement

Administrator's Record of Decision

---

Summary

---

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has decided to execute a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to acquire a 15.32 megawatt (MW) share of nominal project capacity from the Wyoming Wind Plant Project (Project)<sup>1</sup>.

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Kenetech/PacifiCorp Windpower Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (Project EIS) (DOE/EIS-0255) evaluated the potential environmental impacts of various alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, related to the development of the Project. To ensure that BPA's decision to purchase the electrical power from the Project is based on an understanding of the environmental consequences, BPA was a cooperating agency, with the BLM as the lead agency, in the preparation of the Project EIS. BP hereby adopts the Project EIS.

After the Project EIS was issued in August 1995, the SeaWest Corporation of San Diego, California (SeaWest) took over the Project from Kenetech Windpower, Inc. (Kenetech) and modified the Proposed Action that was analyzed in the Project EIS. The BLM and BPA compared the original and modified Proposed Actions and concluded that no further NEPA documentation is required (TRC Mariah Associates 1997).

---

<sup>1</sup> This project has undergone several name changes during the development process. The following all refer to the wind energy project at Foote Creek Rim and Simpson Ridge in Carbon County, Wyoming:

- Wyoming Windplant™
- Kenetech/PacifiCorp Windpower Project
- Sea West/PacifiCorp Wind Power Project
- Foote Creek Rim Wind Project

BPA uses the name "Wyoming Wind Plant Project" to refer to the initial, 41.4-MW phase of development at Foote Creek Rim, from which BPA will purchase a 15.32-MW share of wind turbine capacity.

The modified Proposed Action involves the construction of a 500-MW wind plant in phases in the Foote Creek Rim and Simpson Ridge areas of Carbon County, Wyoming. The fully constructed 500-MW wind plant will consist of approximately 667 to 1,000 wind turbine generators (WTGs) and associated facilities on a mixture of federal, state, and private lands. BPA will purchase the power from the first phase of the Project at Foote Creek Rim.

The Project will be developed and constructed by SeaWest and will be owned and operated by PacifiCorp and the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB). The term of BPA's PPA is 25 years. BPA expects the Project to be in commercial operation by July 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathy Fisher, Environmental Project Lead, a (503) 230-4375.

**PUBLIC AVAILABILITY:** Copies of the Project EIS and this ROD are available from BPA's Public Involvement Office, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212. Copies of the documents may also be obtained by using BPA's nationwide toll-free document request line, 1-800-622-4520.

---

## Supplementary Information

---

BPA has decided to acquire a 15.32 MW share of nominal project capacity from a 41.4-MW wind energy project located in Carbon County, Wyoming. The Project is being developed and constructed by SeaWest and will be owned and operated by PacifiCorp and EWEB. The term of the PPA is 25 years. BPA expects the project to be in commercial operation by July 1999.

To make these decisions, BPA was a cooperating agency with the BLM in the preparation of, and hereby adopts, the Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0255).

This Administrative Record of Decision (ROD) sets out the reasons for BPA's decision to execute a PPA with PacifiCorp and EWEB, through which BPA will purchase electrical output from the Project.

### **BACKGROUND**

BPA is a self-financing Federal power marketing agency with statutory responsibility to supply electricity to utility, industrial, and other customers in the Pacific Northwest. BPA was established by the Bonneville Project Act of 1937, 16 U.S.C. § 832 *et seq.*, to market wholesale power from the Bonneville Dam and to construct power lines for the transmission of this power to load centers in the Northwest. As other Federal dams and transmission lines were built, the combined power and transmission facilities were integrated into a single power supply system. Today, BPA markets power from 29 Federal hydroelectric projects, one nuclear plant, and other facilities, providing about half of the region's power supply. BPA's transmission systems contain 15,012 circuit miles, representing three-fourths of the region's high voltage transmission capacity

BPA sells wholesale electric power to utilities, direct service industrial customers (DSIs), and several government agencies. BPA's primary marketing area is the Pacific Northwest region, comprised of the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, that portion of Montana lying west of the continental divide, and small portions of California, Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada.

16 U.S.C. §§ 837 and 839a(14). BPA also has Congressional authorization to sell or exchange wholesale power outside the Pacific Northwest to the extent that such power is surplus to the needs of the region. *See* 16 U.S.C. § 837a.

The Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (Northwest Power Act) directs BPA to serve the net power requirements of any Pacific Northwest electric utility

requesting service, and to serve existing DSIs in the Pacific Northwest. 16 U.S.C. § 839c(b)(1) and (d). Although BPA cannot own or construct electric generating facilities, the Northwest Power Act permits BPA to acquire rights to the output or capability of electric power resources. See 16 U.S.C. § 839a(1) and 16 U.S.C. § 839d. BPA may acquire a major resource (a resource having a planned capability greater than 50 average MW and acquired for more than 5 years, 16 U.S.C. § 839a(12)) if it is consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's (Council) Power Plan. 16 U.S.C. § 839d(c)(1)(D). If the resource is not major, the Northwest Power Act instructs that the resource must be consistent with the priorities required of the Plan. See 16 U.S.C. § 839d(b)(1) and (2).

An objective of the Northwest Power Act is to encourage the development of renewable resources in the Pacific Northwest. Correspondingly, the Council's 1991 Power Plan identified the need to determine the cost and availability of new cost-effective resources, such as wind energy, through research and demonstration programs. BPA's 1992 Resource Program recognized the Resource Supply Expansion Program (RSEP) as the primary mechanism to achieve this objective. RSEP was further confirmed by BPA's Resource Programs EIS and Resource Programs ROD (BPA 1993a; BPA 1993b). Through the RSEP, a wind power strategy was developed that acknowledged BPA should help host utilities develop small-scale wind demonstration projects. Implementing the wind power strategy would enable BPA to address barriers to cost effective wind development and gain hands-on experience with the operation and integration of commercial wind plants. The RSEP process involved soliciting proposed confirmation and demonstration projects from a variety of sources.

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

In September 1992, BPA issued a *Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Wind Energy Demonstration Project* to implement the RSEP wind strategy. The six proposals for the acquisition of output with utility services received were evaluated by BPA on the basis of project feasibility, demonstration value, power system impacts, environmental impacts, and cost.

The environmental data submitted by the proponents provided BPA with background information about potential impacts to natural resources, recreation resources, cultural and historical resources, aesthetics and noise, public lands, public health and safety, and consistency and compatibility with existing land uses and land use plans. The environmental rating was incorporated into the demonstration value rating and, together with ratings for system cost and project feasibility, determined the overall project score. Based on the overall project scores, the Wyoming Wind Plant Project and the Columbia Wind Farm #1, located in Klickitat County,

Washington, were determined to offer the best demonstration value to BPA and were designated for further consideration. Each of the two proposals considered by BPA were evaluated independently because they are not alternatives to one another under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Wyoming Wind Plant Project (Project) was proposed by U.S. Windpower, PacifiCorp, EWEB, and Idaho Power and is the subject of this ROD. Idaho Power subsequently withdrew from the Project.

Contract negotiations commenced in early 1993, and BPA and PacifiCorp executed a Letter of Agreement (LOA) on March 7, 1994. By this point, Public Service Company of Colorado and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association (Tri-State) had joined PacifiCorp and EWEB as Project owners. The LOA defined the obligations of BPA and PacifiCorp to complete the environmental review process and other actions necessary to enable the parties to consider execution of a PPA. An unexecuted PPA between PacifiCorp and BPA is an attachment to the LOA. At the same time that the LOA was executed, PacifiCorp and U.S. Windpower executed other agreements needed to proceed with the Project. BPA is not a party to these other agreements.

On September 13, 1993, U.S. Windpower submitted a right-of-way application to the Rawlins District Office of the BLM to use public land in eastern Carbon County for the project. The BLM decided an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required and took the steps necessary (described later in this ROD) to initiate this process. U.S. Windpower changed its name to Kenetech Windpower, Inc. (Kenetech) on January 1, 1994.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

### **National Environmental Policy Act**

NEPA is the basic national charter for protection of the environment. NEPA requires Federal agencies to make environmental information available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken. Accurate scientific analysis, expert agency comments, and public scrutiny are essential to implementing NEPA. The NEPA process is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on an understanding of environmental consequences.

Kenetech/PacifiCorp Windpower Project Environmental Impact Statement (Project EIS)

Because the BLM has jurisdiction over part of the land on which the Project will be located, it was designated as the lead agency on the Project EIS. To ensure that BPA's decision to purchase the electrical power from the project is based on an understanding of the environmental consequences, BPA was a cooperating agency with the BLM in the preparation of the Project EIS. The Project EIS analyzes the potential environmental effects from the installation and operation of the Project wind generation facilities and associated transmission system.

The Project EIS was tiered from BPA's 1992 Resource Programs EIS (BPA 1993a) that compared alternative energy resources such as conservation, renewable resources, efficiency improvements, cogeneration, combustion turbines, nuclear power, and coal. The Resource Programs EIS evaluated environmental trade-offs among generic resource types and the cumulative effects of adding various combinations of these resources to BPA's generating system. This Project would implement BPA's decision (BPA 1993b) to strive to expand the supply of renewable resources. The Project EIS focused on this site specific wind energy project and did not duplicate the Resource Programs EIS analysis of alternative resource types.

On January 10, 1994, a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS in accordance with NEPA was published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the Federal Register (59 Fed. Reg. 1404).

Public scoping meetings were held in Rawlins and Laramie, Wyoming, on February 2 and 3, 1994, respectively. The 45-day scoping period closed on February 25, 1994. The Draft EIS (DEIS) was released for public review on January 13, 1995. The EPA published the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register on January 27, 1995 (60 Fed. Reg. 5388). Public meetings were held in Rawlins and Laramie, Wyoming, on February 8 and 9, 1995, respectively. The 60 day comment period closed on March 28, 1995.

The Final EIS (FEIS) was issued on August 18, 1995. The EPA published the NOA in the Federal Register on September 1, 1995 (60 Fed. Reg. 45717). The BLM's 30-day comment period and the no action period ended on October 2, 1995. Collectively, the DEIS and the abbreviated FEIS make up the Project EIS.

The Project EIS evaluated the potential environmental impacts of the installation and operation of Kenetech's Proposed Action, the Federal agencies' modifications of Kenetech's Proposed Action (Alternative A) and the No Action Alternative.

The alternatives considered in the Project EIS are as follows:

#### Proposed Action

The Proposed Action involves the construction and operation of a 500-MW wind plant at two Carbon County locations in south central Wyoming. The two project areas encompass 60,619 acres, of which 16,973 acres are federal, 37,584 acres are private, and 6,062 acres are state land. The Foote Creek Rim area covers about 5,000 acres. It is located at the Arlington interchange on Interstate Highway 80 and extends approximately seven miles north. The Simpson Ridge area covers about 55,619 acres between Hanna and Elk Mountain, Wyoming.

Wind plant facilities would consist of 500-kW to 750-kW wind turbine generators supported by 131 to 151-foot tubular towers spaced approximately 260 to 290 feet apart within rows and about 1,150 to 1,350 feet between rows. Associated facilities include access roads, buried electric and communication lines, pad mounted transformers, transmission lines, and a Project substation.

#### Alternative A

Alternative A involves construction of a 300-MW wind plant, using both the Foote Creek Rim and Simpson Ridge project areas. A 40-percent reduction in the number of wind turbine facilities is anticipated under this alternative.

#### Features Common to the Proposed Action and Alternative A

An electrical substation and a 29-mile, 230-kilovolt (kV) power line from Foote Creek Rim to Miners Substation at Hanna, Wyoming, are common to the Proposed Action and Alternative A. In both cases, the BLM would issue a renewable right-of-way grant with an initial term of 30 years. Phased construction over a 10 to 12-year period is considered for both the Proposed Action and Alternative A. The first phase would include installation of approximately 41.4 MW of turbine capacity at Foote Creek Rim. BPA has decided to purchase electricity only from this first phase of the Project.

### No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, BPA would not acquire a share of the energy output from the proposed project. This alternative is environmentally preferred because it would result in no impacts to the immediate environment. However, without the knowledge and the experience gained through a demonstration project, proposed wind energy projects could continue to be too costly and unreliable to qualify for selection through a competitive acquisition process.

### Kenetech Bankruptcy and Project Restructuring

In May 1996, Kenetech filed for bankruptcy, citing problems that included anticipated repair and warranty cost of addressing mechanical problems associated with the KVS-33 wind turbine. The KVS-33 was already in service at other sites and was to be used at the Wyoming Wind Plant site. In January 1997, SeaWest purchased development rights to the Project from the bankruptcy court. Public Service Company of Colorado withdrew from the project shortly thereafter. In April 1997, Tri-State's Board of Directors voted to end the utility's participation in the Project.

The remaining utilities -- PacifiCorp, EWEB, and BPA -- and SeaWest restructured the Project. Under the new structure, the first phase of the Project remained 41.4 MW in size. PacifiCorp and EWEB would own 32.64 and 8.76 MW of turbine capacity, respectively. They would resell 13.04 and 2.28 MW, respectively (15.32 MW total), to BPA.

### Comparison Report

When Kenetech declared bankruptcy in May 1996, the KVS-33, 400-kW wind turbine became unavailable for use in the Project. After purchasing development rights to the Project in 1997, SeaWest submitted a proposed Project plan to BLM that revised the Proposed Action described in the Project EIS. Because the Proposed Action was modified, the BLM and BPA requested the third-party consultant prepare a "Comparison Report" (TRC Mariah Associates 1997) between the two proposals that would: (1) help BLM and BPA determine if substantial changes to the Proposed Action had been made, or if there were significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns bearing on the Proposed Action or its impacts [40 CFR 1502.9(c)] that would require supplementation of the EIS, (2) review literature on wind energy impacts published since preparation of the DEIS in early 1995, and (3) consider field data collected in 1995 and not included in the Project EIS. The Comparison Report was completed in June 1997.



The Comparison Report examined twenty-eight attributes of the wind plant, sixteen attributes of the wind plant electrical system, six attributes of the wind plant communication system, and five attributes of access to the wind plant. Because a final turbine selection had not been made when the report was prepared, a range of values was examined for the SeaWest proposal. Twenty-eight of the total fifty-five attributes showed no change from the Kenetech to SeaWest proposal. Thirteen of the attributes varied, but not appreciably. Fourteen of the attributes varied to a larger extent and are discussed below.

Many of the attributes are interrelated, so and we will discuss the fourteen in seven groups.

- Number of turbines, strings and end row turbines: Gross numbers of these attributes all decreased between 33 and 50 percent. This change in the SeaWest proposal is viewed as a beneficial change because fewer turbines will pose a lower risk to bird collisions, be less visible, and require less surface disturbance. End row turbines have been suggested as high locations of bird collisions. Reducing the number of this type of turbine will further reduce the risk of bird collisions. The benefits of this attribute group are offset by changes in the next two groups.
- Tower height, distance between towers and strings: Increased distance between towers and strings will make the first phase appear less dense and may make it easier for big game animals to habituate to the wind plant. Greater spacing may actually be a disadvantage to reducing bird strikes because at a lower density, the bird may not recognize the strings as a barrier to be avoided. Taller towers will put the rotor swept area into the space used by higher flying raptors.
- Rotor diameter, individual and total rotor swept area: The rotor diameter and subsequently the individual rotor swept area will be 45 to 78-percent greater for each turbine in the SeaWest proposal. Thus each individual turbine may pose a greater risk of collision than the Kenetech turbine. This increased risk is offset by a 2 to 20-percent reduction in the total rotor swept area for all of Phase I.
- Blade tip speed: This attribute has been associated with increased bird mortality. The SeaWest proposal would use turbines that, on the average, have 10 to 19-percent slower blade tip speeds than the Kenetech proposal.

- Number of meteorological towers: Meteorological towers are supported by guy wires and these thin wires may pose a risk to bird collisions. The SeaWest proposal would use 11 to 16 meteorological towers while the Kenetech proposal had only planned to use seven. Bird collisions with guyed towers have been usually documented with isolated radio towers. The increased risk solely from met. towers should be offset by their being imbedded in the turbine stings rather than isolated.
- Number of in plant power poles and above-ground power lines: The Kenetech proposal had 150 above-ground power poles and five miles of 34.5-kV powerline. The SeaWest proposal will have all power and communication lines buried and only two riser poles at the substation. This attribute change should reduce the risk to large birds by eliminating potential perches around turbines.
- Turbine layout characteristics: High use raptor areas were tentatively identified during 1994/95 use observations. These areas included Arlington Hill (at the extreme south end of Foote Creek Rim) and the entire west (leading) edge of Foote Creek Rim. Use observations in 1995/96 further refined use along the west edge of the rim. Eighty percent of large bird use occurs within a 100-meter band, centered on the west edge of the rim. The SeaWest proposal does not plan any turbines on Arlington Hill and reduced by 17 to 36 percent the number of turbines within 50 meters of the west rim edge.

BPA has reviewed the Comparison Report and concluded that it satisfies the requirements of a Supplemental Analysis, as described in the Department of Energy's Regulations Implementing NEPA (10 C.F.R. § 1021.314(c)). Based upon the Comparison Report, BPA has concluded that no further NEPA documentation is required.

The Project EIS fulfills the requirements of NEPA and meets the needs of the BLM, which has documented its decisions to issue the necessary permits that allow the development in a separate ROD (BLM 1997).

### **Endangered Species Act**

#### **Section 7 Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544), requires federal agencies to ensure their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species. The BLM initiated consultation with the USFWS on

March 24, 1995 and the USFWS issued its Biological Opinion (B.O.) for the Wyoming Wind Plant Project on October 23, 1995 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1995).

The USFWS reached a no jeopardy conclusion with respect to the Project's effect on the endangered American peregrine falcon and the threatened bald eagle. The B.O. concluded an incidental take of one individual of each species was likely and specified certain terms and conditions to minimize take of the species.

In December 1995, BPA initiated consultation with the USFWS on its proposed action (a power purchase agreement) and submitted a revised biological assessment (B.A.) prepared in cooperation with the BLM (TRC Mariah Associates 1996). The revised B.A. contained updated observations from surveys conducted on several avian species in the project area and included plans for wildlife monitoring during project construction and operation.

On March 18, 1996, the USFWS issued a revised B.O. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1996). The incidental take statement and terms and conditions regarding the bald eagle and American peregrine falcon remained the same as those of the October 23, 1995, B.O. The USFWS clarified its policy with respect to enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. §§ 703-712) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (BEPA) (16 U.S.C. §§ 668-668d) in cases where an incidental take statement had been issued under the ESA.

On June 17, 1997, the BLM and BPA reinitiated consultation to allow the USFWS to consider the revised Project proposed by SeaWest/PacifiCorp and the findings of the Comparison Report. On July 1, 1997, the USFWS issued a B.O. for the revised Project (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997). The incidental take statement provided for take of one bald eagle and one American peregrine falcon and included generally the same terms and conditions as the October 23, 1995 B.O.

The USFWS issued SeaWest a Special Purpose Permit under the MBTA on March 21, 1997. The permit covers the take of migratory birds except for ESA listed species and golden eagles.

#### **The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act**

As described above, the USFWS clarified its policy with respect to enforcement of the prohibitions on take of species protected under the MBTA and the BEPA that are also listed under the ESA. The American peregrine falcon is listed under both the MBTA and the ESA. T

bald eagle is listed under the MBTA, the BEPA and the ESA. Take of those species is governed by the B.O. consistent with USFWS policy. In addition, it is the position of the United States that neither the MBTA nor the BEPA apply to Federal agencies or their employees acting in their official capacities (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997b).

### **Environmental Impact Mitigation and Monitoring**

Potential effects of the Project on migratory birds have been fully considered and all practicable methods to reduce environmental harm (including potential impacts to migratory birds) identified in the EIS have been adopted. Mitigation measures are detailed in the EIS and the BLM ROD, and include the following:

- application of mitigation measures to all lands, regardless of ownership, subject to private landowner preference
- design of wind plant facilities to prevent raptor perching
- placement of antiperching devices on 230-kV power poles within 0.25 miles of sage grouse leks and within the Black-Footed Ferret Primary Management Zone
- setback of wind plant facilities from sacred Native American sites per consultation with Native Americans
- painting of turbine blades to increase visibility to birds

The Project implements a number of measures intended to reduce potential impacts and to evaluate actual impacts during Project operation and before any expansion occurs. These measures include phased development, wildlife monitoring, an Eagle Management Plan, and a Project technical committee.

*Phased Development.* Wind power development at Foote Creek Rim and Simpson Ridge will occur in phases, with the Project at Foote Creek Rim being the first phase. BPA's PPA will be from the electricity generated by this first phase of development. SeaWest will be required to submit to the BLM a detailed Plan of Development (POD) for each subsequent phase. The Project EIS examined potential environmental impacts and identified generalized mitigation measures for all phases. Impacts from each phase will be monitored and results will be used to identify both data collection needs and mitigation actions for subsequent phases. Site-specific mitigation will be identified in future PODs, and the BLM will require additional agency consultation and public involvement before approving a POD.

*Wildlife Monitoring.* A detailed wildlife monitoring plan has been developed to evaluate the effects of wind energy development in the Project area (TRC Mariah Associates 1996; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1996). The plan includes intensive surveys of species of primary concern (raptors) and relatively extensive surveys of other species of lesser concern (such as non-raptor avian species and big game animals). Results of the monitoring will be assessed by the technical committee discussed below.

*Eagle Management Plan.* On July 1, 1997, PacifiCorp presented an Eagle Management Plan for the Project to the USFWS. The Plan contains a compilation of the conservation measures contained in the Project EIS, the B.A. and the Comparison Report (referenced above) for mitigation of impacts to and monitoring of bald and golden eagles during project development, operation, and maintenance. The Plan was developed in consultation with the USFWS, BLM, and BPA and presents the best available scientific information to date. It provides for extensive monitoring and for project modification as additional information becomes available. The Plan contains measures to avoid, to the maximum extent practicable, the take of bald and golden eagles.

On July 10, 1997, the USFWS sent a response to PacifiCorp acknowledging receipt of the Eagle Management Plan. The USFWS concurred that the Eagle Management Plan accurately represented the biological data and conservation measures identified in the Project EIS and B.O. and concluded that the measures identified in the Plan represent the best efforts currently available to reduce eagle mortality at the Project site.

*Technical Committee.* A Project technical committee will be established by the BLM to review biological monitoring and study results and to make recommendations on study design and project operation. The committee will meet at least quarterly, and will include representatives from the USFWS, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the BLM.

### Monitoring and Enforcement

The BLM and BPA have responsibility for monitoring the progress of the Project and ensuring that mitigation measures are taken as appropriate. The BLM responsibilities are detailed in the BLM ROD. BPA's PPA requires that the Project meet all Federal, state, and local requirements including mitigation identified in the BLM ROD.

### Permits

The BLM will issue SeaWest a right-of-way grant for construction of a 500-MW wind power facility. Another right-of-way grant will be issued to PacifiCorp for construction of a 230-kV transmission line. PacifiCorp will also be issued a right-of-way grant for the temporary use of access roads across public land during transmission line construction.

The Project has received permits from the Wyoming Industrial Siting Council, the Wyoming State Land Commission, the Wyoming Public Service Commission, and the Carbon County Planning Commission. The Project is supported by local government entities in Carbon County and by the Governor of Wyoming.

The Project is consistent with BLM, state, and local land use plans.

### Decision Factors and Preferred Alternative

BPA's purposes for this action are to: (1) test the ability of wind energy to provide a reliable, economical, and environmentally acceptable energy resource; (2) assure consistency with BPA's statutory responsibilities, including the Northwest Power Act, the Council's Conservation and Electric Power Plan (Power Plan) and its Fish and Wildlife Program; and (3) assure consistency with BPA's Resource Programs (BPA 1993a; BPA 1993b). BPA's preferred alternative is the modified SeaWest Proposed Action with agency mitigations. The preferred alternative meets BPA's purposes because (1) it allows BPA to gain hands on experience with wind energy, a non-polluting, renewable energy resource, (2) it is consistent with the Northwest Power Act because encourages the development of a renewable resource and helps in determining the cost and availability of a wind energy resource, and (3) it implements BPA's commitment in the Resource Programs ROD (BPA 1993b) to strive to expand the supply of renewable resources.

All of the Project alternatives were evaluated against BPA's purposes and need, and only the Proposed Action and Alternative A would satisfy BPA's need to test renewable resources and are consistent with BPA's statutory responsibilities. Further, the Proposed Action and Alternative A are consistent with Federal energy policy and the Northwest Power Planning Council's 1991 Power Plan, which is not true of the No Action Alternative.

Based on the information analyzed and disclosed in the EIS and associated documents, including the BLM ROD (BLM 1997), BPA has decided to select the preferred alternative as the Final Agency Action, with the conditions and mitigation and monitoring elements described in the BL ROD. Alternative A was not selected because it offered no appreciable differences in the

environmental consequences and it would be less economical because it would not maximize the Project areas' wind development potential. Additional explanation for selecting the Proposed Action is summarized in the BLM ROD by major issues that were of most concern or apparent controversy.

**MITIGATION ACTION PLAN:** BPA is not including a Mitigation Action Plan with this ROD because the BLM is responsible for enforcement of all mitigation requirements specified in the BLM ROD.

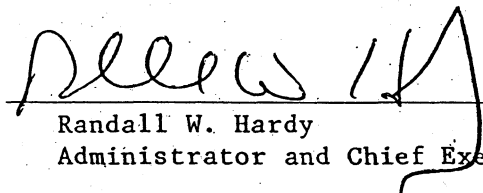
**DECISION:** Upon consideration of the entire record and attachments, BPA has decided to execute a Power Purchase Agreement with PacifiCorp and EWEB for a 15.32-MW share of the first phase of development at the Foote Creek Rim area of the Wyoming Wind Plant Project.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Draft and Final EIS and this ROD are available from BPA's Public Involvement Office, PO Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212, or by calling BPA's nationwide toll-free document request line, 1-800-622-4520.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathy Fisher, Environmental Project Lead, Routing ECP, Bonneville Power Administration, PO Box 3621, Portland, Oregon 97208, telephone (503) 230-4375.

**PUBLIC AVAILABILITY:** This ROD will be distributed to all persons and agencies known to be interested in or affected by the Proposed Action or alternatives.

Issued in Portland, Oregon on July 21, 1997.

  
Randall W. Hardy  
Administrator and Chief Executive Off

## REFERENCES

- Bonneville Power Administration. 1992. Draft 1992 Resource Program: Technical Report. DOE/BP-1727.
- Bonneville Power Administration. 1993a. Final Environmental Impact Statement: Resource Programs. DOE/EIS-0162.
- Bonneville Power Administration. 1993b. Resource Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision.
- Bureau of Land Management. 1995a. Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Kenetech/PacifiCorp Windpower Project. Great Divide Resource Area, Rawlins District Office, Rawlins, Wyoming. DES 95-2.
- Bureau of Land Management. 1995b. Final Environmental Impact Statement: Kenetech/PacifiCorp Windpower Project. Great Divide Resource Area, Rawlins District Office, Rawlins, Wyoming. FES 95-29.
- Bureau of Land Management. 1997. Record of Decision: Seawest/PacifiCorp Windpower Project. Great Divide Resource Area, Rawlins District Office, Rawlins, Wyoming.
- Northwest Power Planning Council. 1991. 1991 Northwest Conservation and Electric Power Plan. Documents No. 91-04 and 91-05. 3 vol.
- PacifiCorp. 1997. Eagle Management Plan: SeaWest/PacifiCorp Windpower Project.
- TRC Mariah Associates, Inc. 1996. Final Biological Assessment for the Wyoming Windpower Project. Prepared for the Bonneville Power Administration.
- TRC Mariah Associates, Inc. 1997. Final SeaWest/PacifiCorp Windfarm Development Comparison. Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, Rawlins, Wyoming.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1995. Biological Opinion for Kenetech/PacifiCorp Windpower Project. Issued October 23, 1995, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1996. Biological Opinion for Kenetech/PacifiCorp Windpower Project. Issued March 8, 1996, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1997a. Biological Opinion for SeaWest/PacifiCorp Windpower Project. Issued July 1, 1997. Denver, Colorado.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1997b. Memorandum dated 4/7/97 from Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Associate Deputy Secretary for Energy Programs, Department of Energy.